

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /074 W

----- 003362

R 041425Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1242

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7017

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PE

SUBJECT: STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENDED --COUNTRY CALM BUT
SECURITY STRINGENT

1. THE GOP DECREED JULY 30 THAT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY THROUGHOUT PERU WOULD BE EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER 30-DAY PERIOD. PURSUANT TO THAT DECREE, THE ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE DECLARING THE CONTINUANCE OF A MIDNIGHT TO 5 A.M. CURFEW FOR LIMA AND CALLAO. GENERAL OSCAR MOLINA, CHIEF OF THE JOINT COMMAND, TOLD NEWSMEN AUGUST 2 THAT CURFEW WOULD PROBABLY REMAIN IN EFFECT AT LEAST THROUGHOUT AUGUST, ALTHOUGH CURFEW HOURS COULD BE SHORTENED. HE POINTED OUT THAT TECHNICALLY ALL PRIVATE CELEBRATIONS, INCLUDING BIRTHDAY PARTIES, WERE PROHIBITED, BUT HE REMARKED THAT FAMILY PARTIES SHOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEM "IF EVERYBODY GOES HOME EARLY". MOLINA TOLD REPORTERS THAT, OF COURSE, "ALL TRADE UNION ACTIVITY REMAINS SUSPENDED". DIPLOMATS IN LIMA ARE AFFECTED BY THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AS THE FONOFF HAS ISSUED A NOTE TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS REQUESTING THAT FONOFF RECEIVE PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF TRAVEL BY DIPLOMATS OUTSIDE LIMA. PURPORTED REASON OF REQUEST IS SO THAT "SAFE CONDUCT" PERMITS CAN BE ISSUED, BUT GOP MAY BE INTERESTED IN BETTER CONTROL OVER
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DIPLOMATIC MOVEMENTS WITH PERHAPS SPECIAL INTEREST IN CUBAN AND

SOVIET ACTIVITY OUTSIDE LIMA. WHILE ALL APPEARS CALM, THE GOP OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERS THAT STRINGENT MEASURES ARE STILL NECESSARY.

2. THE LEADING GOP SECURITY CONCERN MAY BE WITH A POSSIBLE LEFTIST MOBILIZATION. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE GOP IS PREPARED TO ARREST AS MANY AS 1800 LEFTIST POLITICAL AND LABOR FIGURES. SOME ARRESTS HAVE OCCURRED. SOURCE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE TOLD EMBASSY THAT THE FAR-LEFT VANGUARDIA REVOLUCIONARIA CHIEF, RICARDO LETTS COLMENARES, HAS BEEN ARRESTED. COMMUNIST PARTY LABOR LEADER GUSTAVO ESPINOSA MONTESIONS HAD BEEN UNDER DETENTION AND THEN RELEASED. IN THE WAKE OF THE GOP DECISION TO RETURN FISHING BOATS TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, POLICE ARRESTED TOP OFFICIALS OF THE FISHERMEN'S UNION, PERHAPS TO HEAD OFF A PUBLIC PROTEST OR TO PREVENT MORE CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES. TRADE UNION LEADER HERNAN CUENTAS (HEAD OF SPCC CUAJONE UNION) AND LAWYER GENARA LEDESMA DEPARTED PERU IN RECENT DAYS AND AIRLINES ARE SAID TO HAVE RECEIVED WORD THAT THEY WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO RETURN. UNION LAWYER RICARDO DIAZ CHAVEZ AND FORMER GUERRILLA LEADER HUGO BLANCO WERE MORE FORMALLY DEPORTED.

3. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED UNCONFIRMED REPORTS FROM SEVERAL SOURCES THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER FERNANDEZ MALDONADO HAD BEEN UNDER HOUSE ARREST DURING THE LAST WEEK (FOR SOME DAYS HE WAS SAID TO BE HELD AT HIS BEACH HOME IN THE NORTH OF PERU). ONE SOURCE TOLD EMBASSY THAT THE FORMER SOCIAL PROPERTY CHIEF ANGEL DE LAS CASAS IS ALSO UNDER HOUSE ARREST. THE SAME SOURCE, WHO IS WELL CONNECTED WITH TOP OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINES, TOLD EMBASSY THAT TWO ARMY OFFICERS (A LIEUTENANT COLONEL AND A MAJOR) IN CHARGE OF LABOR AFFAIRS AT THE MINISTRY HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. BOTH MEN OWED THEIR POSITIONS TO FERNANDEZ MALDONADO AND WERE ALLEGEDLY APPREHENDED IN POSSESSION OF SOVIET WEAPONS.

4. GOP-CONTROLLED PRESS HAS NOT MENTIONED RECENT ARRESTS, OR EVEN THE "FEW DEPORTATIONS" NOTED BY PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ IN HIS JULY 28 ADDRESS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF DIAZ CHAVEZ AND HUGO BLANCO. EL COMERCIO DID REPORT A POLICE DISCOVERY OF A CLANDESTINE PRESS IN CUZCO PURPORTEDLY OPERATED BY THE FAR-LEFT TEACHERS UNION (SUTEP) COOPERATIVE. POLICE CLAIM THAT "SUBVERSIVE
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PROPAGANDA" AND POLITICAL MATERIALS WERE IN ABUNDANCE.

5. ALTHOUGH A LEFTIST ATTEMPT TO ORGANIZE A WIDESPREAD STRIKE JULY 22 FAILED, THE GOP IS STILL WARY OF POSSIBLE LABOR UNREST AND THE DECREED EXTENSION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IS AT LEAST PARTIALLY DUE TO THAT CONCERN. FAR-LEFT MINE WORKER UNIONS (WHICH ARE UNABLE TO CALL WORKER ASSEMBLIES DURING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY) ARE SURREPTITIOUSLY PASSING OUT LEAFLETS SETTING

AUGUST 16 AS THE DATE FOR A NATION-WIDE STRIKE IN THE MINES.
THE STRIKE CALL MAY BE COORDINATED WITH TEACHERS UNIONS AND
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. THE GOP CAN EXPECT TO ACT FORCEFULLY TO
PREVENT, OR IF NEED BE TO BREAK, THE THREATENED STRIKE.
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